

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-12, 14-23, and 25-32 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Erekson (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018).

Claims 22-23 and 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohta (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0029531).

Claims 6-8, 10-12, 14-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Erekson (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018) in view of Ohta (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0029531).

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Erekson (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018) and Ohta (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0029531) to further include Mitchell et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0184496).

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0029531) in view of Erekson (U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018).

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

*A. Claims 1-5*

Claim 1 has been amended to further recite that if the helper device (local device) does offer the helper service requested by the handheld device, the helper device can deny the request (see S404 in FIG. 4 and S504 in FIG. 5). If the helper device denies the request, the handheld device attempts to locate other helper device. The Applicants note that this limitation was included in the current claim 2.

The Examiner rejects claim 2 on the ground that “Erekson further discloses in column 8 lines 42-64, wherein when the said RD (610,620,630) has not been selected as a “compliant”, device RD (610,620,630) will deny access to the PCS (100).” In Erekson, column 8 lines 42-64, remote devices 610-630 respond to broadcast message 640 via responses 650a-c respectively, wherein these responses 650a-c include information characterizing the type and capabilities of each remote device. The portable computer system 100, when receiving responses from the remote devices 610-630, may transmit a command 660 to a selected remote device, wherein a command 660 controls the remote device in some prescribed manner (e.g. turning the device off or on, raising or lowering a level, etc.) based on the type of device and its capabilities. Another remote device 630 may be selected and a command 670 is sent to the remote device 630.

Erekson (column 8 lines 42-64) merely teaches that the portable computer system 100 transmits a command to a selected remote device based on the type and the capabilities of the remote device. This means only the above-mentioned assumption such as "if the helper device (local device) does offer the helper service requested by the handheld device."

Further, in Erekson, the portable computer system 100 receives responses to the broadcast message from remote devices, selects a remote device to be used, and issues a command to the selected remote device. Therefore, Erekson is silent on a remote device denying the command received from the portable computer system 100. According to the present invention, it is a helper device that denies a request received from the handheld device.

Accordingly, Erekson does not teach the present invention as recited in claim 1 (as amended).

Consequently, claims 2-5 are not anticipated by Erekson, at least by virtue of their dependency.

*C. Claims 22-23 and 25-31*

As noted above, claims 22-23 and 25-31 stand rejected under § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ohta.

Claim 22 has been amended to include limitations analogous to claim 1. Therefore the arguments discussed above are analogously valid.

Accordingly, claim 22 is not anticipated by Ohta. Consequently, claims 23 and 25-31 are not anticipated by Ohta, at least by virtue of their dependency.

*D. Claims 6-8 and 10*

Claims 6-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erekson in view of Ohta.

Claim 6 has been amended to include limitations from claim 7 which is analogous to original claim 2, the limitations of which are added to amended claim 1. Therefore, arguments discussed above in relation to claim 1 are analogously valid. Further, Ohta does not cure the deficiency noted in the teachings of Erekson.

Accordingly, claim 6 is not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of Erekson in view of Ohta. Consequently, claims 8 and 10 are patentable over Erekson in view of Ohta, at least by virtue of their dependency.

*E. Claims 11-12, 14-15 and 17-20*

As noted above, claims 11-12, 14-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erekson in view of Ohta;

Claim 11 recites features similar to those found in claim 6. Therefore, the arguments discussed above are equally valid. Claims 12, 14-15 and 17-20 are patentable over Erekson in view of Ohta, at least by virtue of their dependency.

*F. Claim 16*

As noted above, claim 16 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erekson in view of Ohta, and further including Mitchell.

Mitchell does not overcome the deficiencies noted in the combined teachings of Erekson and Ohta. Therefore, claim 16 is patentable over the proposed combination of Erekson in view of Ohta, and further in view of Mitchell, at least by virtue of its dependency.

*G. Claim 32*

As noted above, claim 32 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohta in view of Erekson.

Claim 32 is patentable over the proposed combination of Ohta in view of Erekson, at least by virtue of its dependency.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/986,698

Attorney Docket No.: A8182

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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